

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 - 17 are pending in the present application.

On 25 FEB 2005, Applicants and Examiner Marsh conducted a teleconference. Applicants thank Examiner Marsh for making time for the teleconference.

Applicants note that the Office Action indicates that claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are presently in condition for allowance, and therefore, claim 8 does not need to be rewritten.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1 – 7 and 9 – 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,366,197 to Westland. The application contains one independent claim, namely claim 1. During the above-noted teleconference, Applicants and Examiner Marsh agreed to a clarifying amendment to claim 1 that would patentably distinguish claim 1 over the Westland patent. Applicants have amended claim 1 in accordance with the agreement. Below, Applicants are summarizing the rationale for the amendment.

Claim 1 provides for a supporting device for supporting a portable device on a surface. The supporting device includes, *inter alia*, (i) a supporting plate, and (ii) a supporting frame having a substantially planar arrangement with (a) a first end that can be placed on the surface, and (b) a second end in a sliding guide located at the supporting plate.

The Westland patent discloses a surface 24, a rear leg 16, and a support leg 14. Surface 24 includes tracks 52. As is apparent from FIGS. 1 and 2, rear leg 16 has a first end (i.e., bottom end) that can be placed on a surface, and a second end (i.e., top end) that is secured to support leg 14. The Office Action equates surface 24 and rear leg 16 with the supporting plate and the supporting frame, respectively, of claim 1. The Office

Action also equates tracks 52 with the sliding guide of claim 1. However, whereas **the second end of rear leg 16 is secured to support leg 14, it is not in tracks 52**. As such, the Westland patent neither discloses nor suggests a supporting frame having **a second end in a sliding guide**, as recited in claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is both novel and patentable over the Westland patent.

Claims 2 – 7 and 9 – 17 depend from claim 1. By virtue of this dependence, claims 2 – 7 and 9 – 17 are also novel and patentable over the Westland patent.

Pursuant to the agreement with Examiner Marsh, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 102(b) rejection of claims 1 – 7 and 9 – 17.

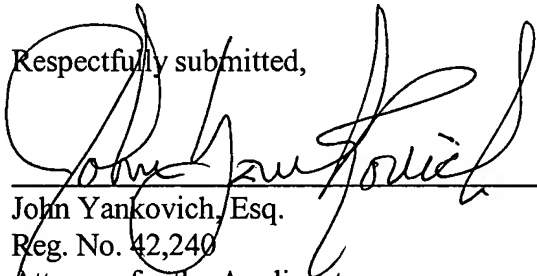
As mentioned above, Applicants made a clarifying amendment to claim 1. The amendment does not narrow the meaning of any term of the claims, and as such, the doctrine of equivalents should be available for all of the elements of all of the claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Date

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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